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TITLE Black Higher Education Fact Sheet. Did You Know? About Federal R&D Funding to HBC's. Repor #6.

INSTITUTION National Advisory Committee on Black Higher Education and Black Colleges and Universities (ED), Washington, D.C.

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ABSTRACT

Trends in federal research and development funding that affect historically black colleges (HBCs) are outlined and statistical data provided. National Science Foundation data show almost no change in the HBC share of this funding from FY 1978 to FY 1979. The rise of HBC funding (12 percent) was exceeded by the figure for overall funding (14 percent), resulting in somewhat less for HBCs in constant dollars. The federal agencies and departments most involved in research and development activities (Health, Education, and Welfare; National Science Foundation; Department of Defense; and Department of Energy) awarded the fewest dollars in their budgets to HBCs, representing little change from the previous year. Anecdotal evidence drawn from the Chronicle of Higher Education bears out this trend. One remedy proposed by the National Advisory Committee on Black Higher Education and Black Colleges and Universities to increase the HBC share of this funding is the recommendation to award research grants for studies of the major issues affecting blacks and the black community to black researchers at the HBCs. The most frequently cited reason for low funding levels is lack of facilities and personnel in the institutions to carry out research goals. Projects at HBCs showing ability to carry out research and development work are listed. (MSP)

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BLACK HIGHER EDUCATION FACT SHEET

DID YOU KNOW ?

ABOUT FEDERAL R&D FUNDING TO HBC'S #6 JULY, 1981

ED205154

The Committee, as have all observers of the progress of equity in higher education, has consistently advocated a larger inclusion of the historically Black colleges (HBC's) in Federal funding. Especially critical to an institution's fiscal vitality is a share in the billions of dollars the Federal government spends each year in research and development (R&D) grants to the Nation's universities and colleges. Because the HBC's have been systematically cut off from these R&D grants, a Presidential Directive was issued on January 17, 1979, to all Federal departments and agencies to heighten their awareness of the need to award Federal funds equitably to the Nation's Black institutions. At the urging of the Black higher education community, which was skeptical of the potential effectiveness of this Directive, the President issued an Executive Order on August 8, 1980, "designed to achieve a significant increase in the participation by historically Black colleges and universities in Federally sponsored programs." Final FY 1979 data from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for its annual report on Federal support to institutions of higher education (IHE's) bear out the skepticism which met the Directive and show that it did little to remedy the funding inequities which ignited the Executive action.

The currently unpublished NSF data indicate that there was almost no change in the HBC share of Federal R&D obligations between FY 1978 and FY 1979. The total amount secured by HBC's rose by almost 12 percent in FY 1979 but this increase was exceeded by that for all institutions, 14 percent, resulting in a constant HBC proportion of about 0.8 percent. In FY 1979, Black colleges were virtually excluded from the $3.8 billion for R&D awarded by the 14 Federal agencies/departments which accounted for an estimated 95 percent of total funding obligations to all colleges and universities. Only 44 of the 100 HBC's received R&D awards for a total of $29.3 million, or 0.76 percent of the FY 1979 national figure. Approximately 45 percent of HBC funds was supplied by Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants to the Black land-grant institutions. Taken together, USDA and HEW accounted for almost three-fourths of all Federal R&D monies to the HBC's. Moreover, USDA was the only agency/department of the 14 surveyed by NSF that allocated more than 3 percent of its R&D obligations to HBC's. In judging the effectiveness of the Directive, however, even this is misleading since USDA is legislatively mandated to provide support to all land-grant institutions.

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The agencies/departments most involved in R&D activities awarded the fewest dollars in their budgets to the HBC's. HEW, NSF, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy (DOE) accounted for over 86 percent of all Federal R&D obligations to IHE's in FY 1979. These agencies allocated only 0.34, 0.13, 0.03, and 0.45 percent, respectively, of their R&D funds to the HBC's. Furthermore, these proportions represented little change from those of the previous year. In FY 1978, USDA and HEW accounted for 73 percent of the total to HBC's and none of the four most active R&D agencies/departments awarded more than 0.35 percent of their funds to Black colleges. Individually, a majority of the HBC's receiving R&D funding in FY 1979 earned only minor awards: 24 of the grantees each got less than one (1) percent of the total amount, ranging from $5,000 at Voorhees College to $265,000 at Morehouse College, for a total share of 8.5 percent of the $29,334,000. At the same time, three of the institutions received almost a third of the total funds to HBC's. In FY 1978, this distribution had been

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/OVER/

The Committee was established in December, 1976, to examine all approaches to the higher education of Black Americans as well as enhancement of the historically Black colleges and universities and then to make recommendations to the Secretary of Education in the identification of several courses of action to raise substantially the participation of Black Americans in all sectors and at all levels of higher education.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
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BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

about the same: almost half of the HBC grantees shared less than 6 percent of the total allocations while four received over 41 percent of the total.

The Chronicle of Higher Education provides anecdotal evidence that despite the Executive Order this trend continues to the present day. In its regular section on Federal Grants, the Chronicle lists specific awards to the Nation's institutions by various funding agencies. While this listing is by no means a comprehensive account, it does indicate that HBC's still do not fare well in the R&D award process. The following are selected examples of grants noted in the Chronicle since October 1, 1980, the beginning of FY 1981:

- In seven separate issues, the Chronicle reported that the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism had awarded a total of $10,965,000 to 94 institutions; no HBC's were included;

- On January 19, 1981, the Chronicle reported that the National Endowment for the Arts had awarded $3,720,000 in challenge grants to 18 institutions; no HBC's were included;

- On December 1, 1980, the Chronicle reported that the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) had awarded $11,396,000 in 178 grants; six HBC's received awards, totaling $345,000;

- On May 11, 1981, the Chronicle reported that in February and March, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) had awarded $31,825,000 in grants to 142 institutions in 36 States, the District of Columbia and foreign countries; no HBC's were included;

- Through June 8, 1981, the Chronicle noted that NASA had awarded $14,861,000 to 204 recipients; HBC's received 9 of the 270 grants, for a total amount of $407,000;

- In six separate issues, the Chronicle reported that the National Endowment for the Humanities had awarded a total of $23,782,000 to 236 recipients; four HBC's received grants, totaling $630,000.

One remedy proposed by the Committee and others to increase the HBC share of Federal R&D funding is the recommendation to award research grants for studies relating to the major issues affecting Blacks and the Black community to Black researchers at the HBC's. These institutions have a proven record of expertise in social science research and have significantly addressed and enhanced national goals and objectives. Noting again the anecdotal nature of the Chronicle's series and stating clearly that some of these grants are awarded to Black researchers at the predominantly white, research institutions, the Chronicle reveals that many studies of Black-oriented issues do not go to HBC's:

- A $50,000 Federal grant for research on racial remedies in a time of racial crisis was awarded to Oregon State University;

- A $110,000 Federal grant for a research study of the economics and demographics of inner-city revival was awarded to Harvard;

- A $70,000 Federal grant for a study of the Black protest movement in 20th century America was awarded to Kent State University;

- A $41,000 Federal grant for a course on the culture of Southern Black women was awarded to the University of Alabama;

- A $70,000 Federal grant to study "Folk" and "written" voices in Afro-American letters was awarded to Yale.

The most frequent explanation of Federal grantors about the exclusion of HBC's from Federal R&D participation is that these institutions do not possess the requisite facilities or personnel to carry out sophisticated research studies. Consequently, HBC's are denied R&D funding by the very benefits that these grants produce; i.e., a Catch-22 result of historic discrimination. Furthermore, although a number of verbal endorsements of the value of HBC's have been made by President Reagan and Vice-President Bush, the Administration has made no decision on the future implementation of the Executive Order on Black colleges. This delay has halted much of the initiative to include HBC's in Federal R&D awards. In its story on the Spring meeting of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the Chronicle reported that "an official from the DOE commented...that plans to increase the

number of contracts going to Black colleges had been put on hold 'until we get further instruction from the Administration'." While it is true that HBC's are handicapped by the effects of years of inequitable funding support, these institutions nevertheless have proven able to conduct a variety of major research efforts on national and international issues:

- Prairie View A&M University is currently completing construction of what will be the largest center for dairy goat research in the United States. Funded by USDA, the project has sparked much international interest, particularly in Africa where the school has formal ties;
- Jackson State University is conducting a major research study for the Office of Naval Research to investigate methods of freeing ships from underwater hazards;
- Hampton Institute has been awarded a NASA research grant to study local effects of partly cloudy skies on solar and emitted radiation;
- Tennessee State University has been awarded an NEH grant for a summer institute on Afro-American history and culture for secondary school teachers;
- Meharry Medical College is conducting a research study for NIH on drug-induced ALA synthetase and heme biosynthesis;
- Miles College has been awarded a grant from the Ford Foundation to document and share a program that uses retired teachers to tutor students in basic skills;
- Johnson C. Smith University has been awarded a 5-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for programs in the marine sciences;
- Atlanta University, Jackson State, Kentucky State, Prairie View, and Virginia Union are sharing a research grant from DOE to assess current energy needs of minority and low-income groups;
- Howard University is conducting a research study for NASA on the integration of very high-frequency omni-range station/distance measuring equipment.

Projects such as these substantiate President Reagan's belief that Black colleges are "a sound, educational investment" which must be supported. If the goals of the Executive Order are aggressively pursued, the HBC's will share in the resources, opportunities, and prestige which accrue from an equitable share in Federal research and that "investment" will pay dividends which benefit all of America.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

CAROL J. SMITH, PROGRAM DELEGATE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
BLACK HIGHER EDUCATION AND
BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
U. S. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
1100 17th STREET, N.W. - SUITE 702-6
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

(202) 653-7558

TABLE I. COMPARISON OF FEDERAL OBLIGATIONS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION FOR ALL IHE'S AND HBC'S, BY AGENCY: FY 1979 AND FY 1978

(Dollars in Thousands)

Fiscal Year	TOTAL 1/	USDA	DOC	DOD	DOE	EPA	HEW	DOI	NASA	NSF	DOT	Others 2/
FY 1979												
Total Amount, All Institutions ($)	3,846,321	193,842	45,953	528,720	256,389	60,898	1,965,781	35,315	137,215	561,320	11,430	49,558
Percent Distribution	100.00	5.04	1.19	13.75	6.67	1.58	51.11	0.92	3.57	14.59	0.30	1.29
Total Amount, HBC's ($)	29,334	14,458	195	156	1,156	341	6,688	51	2,887	740	313	1,849
Percent of Total	0.76	7.46	0.43	0.03	0.45	1.38	0.34	0.14	2.10	0.13	2.74	3.73
Number of HBC's Funded 3/	44	20	2	6	9	15	19	2	27	9	4	6
Percent Distribution	100.00	49.29	0.66	0.53	3.94	2.87	22.80	0.17	9.84	2.52	1.07	6.30
FY 1978												
Total Amount, All Institutions ($)	3,362,174	175,269	35,042	452,249	250,912	51,145	1,656,410	34,258	124,482	509,732	16,183	56,492
Percent Distribution	100.00	5.21	1.04	13.45	7.46	1.52	49.27	1.03	3.70	15.16	0.48	1.68
Total Amount, HBC's ($)	26,265	13,416	0	244	709	877	5,724	0	2,144	862	665	1,624
Percent of Total	0.78	7.65	--	0.05	0.28	1.71	0.35	--	1.72	0.17	4.11	2.87
Number of HBC's Funded 3/	41	20	0	6	5	11	14	0	23	11	7	7
Percent Distribution	100.00	51.08	--	0.93	2.70	3.34	21.79	--	8.16	3.28	2.53	6.18

SOURCE: Committee staff analysis, National Science Foundation, Federal Support to Universities, Colleges and Selected Nonprofit Institutions, Fiscal Year 1978, Table B-34; and NSF unpublished data, FY 1979.

NOTE : Table includes data from 14 Federal agencies responsible for more than 95 percent of all Federal obligations to universities and colleges. IHE = Institutions of Higher Education and HBC = Historically Black Colleges.

1/ Does not include funds obligated to Federally funded research and development centers administered by academic institutions.
2/ Includes the Agency for International Development; Housing and Urban Development and Labor Departments; and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
3/ Number of institutions funded does not add to total since some institutions received funds from more than one agency.

TABLE 7: COMPARISON OF FEDERAL OBLIGATIONS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO ALL IHE'S AND HBC'S, BY AGENCY: FY 1979

(Dollars in Thousands)

Historically Black Colleges Receiving Federal R & D Awards	Total[2/]	USDA	DOC	DOD	DOE	EPA	HEW	DOI	NASA	NSF	DOT	Other[1/]
Total, all institutions	3,846,321	191,842	45,853	568,720	256,805	60,898	1,965,781	35,115	137,215	561,320	11,430	49,558
Total to 44 HBC's	29,334	14,458	195	156	1,156	841	6,688	51	2,887	740	313	1,849
Alabama A&M	1,621	990	---	31	149	50	---	---	199	---	---	---
Talladega (AL)	65	---	---	---	---	---	24	---	41	---	---	---
Tuskegee Inst. (AL)	1,633	1,015	---	41	84	---	---	---	144	79	---	270
Delaware State	356	356	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Howard Univ. (DC)	5,718	28	---	36	62	126	4,366	---	582	216	---	302
Florida A&M	1,279	654	---	6	---	100	135	---	339	45	---	---
Atlanta Univ. (GA)	644	10	---	---	390	54	224	39	---	---	---	17
Clark (GA)	255	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	30	---	---	225
Fort Valley State (GA)	1,320	1,045	---	---	---	13	232	---	30	---	---	---
Morehouse (GA)	265	---	---	---	---	81	42	---	45	97	---	---
Morris Brown (GA)	50	---	---	---	---	---	50	---	---	---	---	---
Savannah State (GA)	82	---	---	---	---	82	---	---	---	---	---	---
Kentucky State	1,343	1,102	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Southern Univ. (LA)	1,787	772	---	30	---	13	42	---	41	---	---	200
Xavier (LA)	110	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	25	---	70	835
Bowie State (MD)	58	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	26	84	---	---
Coppin State (MD)	230	---	95	---	---	---	---	---	58	---	---	---
Morgan State (MD)	103	---	---	---	---	---	89	---	46	---	---	---
Univ. MD - ES (MD)	677	590	---	---	---	---	---	---	103	---	---	---
Alcorn State (MS)	1,084	1,031	-	-	-	9	---	12	66	---	---	---
Jackson State (MS)	404	140	---	---	100	---	10	---	154	---	---	---
Utica Jr. College (MS)	75	---	---	---	---	75	---	---	---	---	---	---
N. C. A&T	2,005	1,454	---	---	60	80	---	---	252	75	84	---
N. C. Central	172	3	---	---	50	---	---	---	40	29	50	---
Shaw Univ. (NC)	54	54	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
St. Augustine's (NC)	100	---	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Central State (OH)	140	---	---	---	---	31	---	---	---	---	109	---
Langston Univ. (OK)	799	744	---	---	---	55	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lincoln (PA)	50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	50	---	---	---
Benedict (SC)	34	---	---	---	---	34	---	---	---	---	---	---
Claflin (SC)	38	---	---	---	---	38	---	---	---	---	---	---
South Carolina State	859	859	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Voorhees (SC)	5	---	---	---	---	---	5	---	---	---	---	---
Fisk Univ. (TN)	95	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	80	15	---	---
Le-Moyne Owen (TN)	33	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	33	---	---	---
Meharry Medical Col (TN)	1,065	---	---	---	---	---	1,010	---	55	---	---	---
Tennessee State	1,145	1,108	---	---	---	---	2	---	35	---	---	---
Bishop (TX)	91	---	---	---	---	---	91	---	---	---	---	---
Prairie View A&M (TX)	1,495	1,401	---	---	50	---	---	---	44	---	---	---
Texas Southern Univ.	135	---	---	---	101	---	34	---	---	---	---	---
Hampton Inst. (VA)	428	---	---	10	---	---	45	---	273	100	---	---
Norfolk State (VA)	52	---	---	---	---	---	52	---	---	---	---	---
Virginia State	1,190	1,102	---	---	---	---	45	---	43	---	---	---
Virginia Union	190	---	---	---	---	---	190	---	---	---	---	---

SOURCE: Committee staff analysis, National Science Foundation unpublished data, FY 1979.

NOTE : Table includes data from 14 federal agencies responsible for more than 95 percent of all federal obligations to universities and colleges. IHE = Institutions of Higher Education and HBC = Historically Black Colleges.

1/ Includes AID, HUD, Labor, and NRC.

2/ Does not include funds obligated to federally funded research and development centers administered by academic institutions.